



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 02 March 2006

Current
Nationwide
Threat Level is

ELEVATED
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF
TERRORIST ATTACKS

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<http://www.dhs.gov/>

Daily Highlights

- Reuters reports Pennsylvania's Department of Environmental Protection conducted surprise inspections at its five nuclear plants after learning that a shift supervisor had fallen asleep at the Three Mile Island nuclear power plant. (See item [4](#))
- The Associated Press reports that according to a new study, talking on cell phones or using laptops on an airplane could disrupt cockpit operations, especially global positioning devices that are increasingly being used to help land planes safely. (See item [13](#))
- Agence France–Presse reports Germany has ordered that cats be kept indoors and dogs on leashes in bird flu hit areas in five states, after a dead cat was found to have the H5N1 strain of the virus. (See item [26](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report *Fast Jump*

Production Industries: [Energy](#); [Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation and Border Security](#); [Postal and Shipping](#)

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *March 01, New York Times* — **Fixing up offshore U.S. oilrigs.** Two robotic submarines below sea level are replacing a pair of sections of pipelines that were severely dented in Hurricane Katrina. The job should be completed by the end of the week, but the huge task of fixing the damage is not over. Six months after Hurricane Katrina, more than a quarter of the region's oil

output is still shut down, amounting to six percent of domestic U.S. production. The shortages have worsened an already razor-tight global picture. Oil companies are working feverishly to restore the largest energy hub in the U.S. While few will admit it, they are racing against the clock. In less than four months, the next hurricane season begins. Chevron, which lost a major platform during the storm, said its output was back at two-thirds of its pre-storm capacity of 300,000 barrels a day. The company indicated that 20,000 barrels of oil a day would probably never be recovered. "We're scrambling for resources, like everybody else," said John Sherwood of Anglo-Suisse Offshore Partners, a small oil producer that lost five of its 30 shallow-water platforms. He said the industry was facing a shortage of ships and qualified crews, marine technicians, and offshore experts.

Source: <http://www.iht.com/articles/2006/03/01/business/gulf.php>

2. *February 28, Associated Press* — **Nuclear commission reviewing security at Turkey Point power plant.** The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is reviewing security issues at Turkey Point power plant after an inspection team visited the facility, officials said Tuesday, February 28. The nuclear plant is located about 25 miles south of Miami. The NRC does not disclose details of security inspections at nuclear plants. An Augmented Inspection Team is formed to review circumstances "surrounding more significant issues at NRC-licensed facilities," according to a news release. The Wackenhut Corp., which handles security for the plant, was working with plant owner Florida Power & Light Co. and the NRC to determine the cause of the problem, said Marc Shapiro, Wackenhut senior vice president. He said, "We do not feel at any time that the security of the plant has been in jeopardy."

Source: <http://www.sun-sentinel.com/news/local/miami/sfl-228turkeypo int.0.7835965.story?coll=sfla-news-miami>

3. *February 28, Associated Press* — **Additional blasts rock Alabama's biggest mine.** More underground explosions have rocked Alabama's largest coal mine since a blast on Friday, February 24 forced the evacuation of 140 workers. No one has been hurt in any of the blasts, and the government said the severity of the explosions was unknown since the mine remains too dangerous for anyone to enter. Federal regulators said Tuesday, February 28 it was unclear when production could resume. The Shoal Creek Mine remained closed for a fifth day Tuesday. Two more explosions occurred on Sunday and Monday, according to Amy Louviere, a spokesperson with the federal Mine Safety and Health Administration. Shoal Creek, situated about 45 miles west of Birmingham, was among more than a dozen operations to undergo court-ordered safety inspections in late January and early February after the United Mine Workers union sued over what it said was lax oversight by the state. Shoal Creek had an average of 820 employees last year and produced 2.2 million tons of coal.

Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20060228/ap_on_re_us/mine_explosions_1

4. *February 28, Reuters* — **Pennsylvania acts after reports of security lapses at Three Mile Island.** Pennsylvania conducted surprise inspections at its five nuclear plants after learning that a shift supervisor had fallen asleep at the Three Mile Island nuclear power plant. All five plants passed the inspections, officials said. Pennsylvania's Department of Environmental Protection found all plant personnel awake and alert during its surprise inspections, which will continue twice each month through 2006 by the department's Bureau of Radiation Protection. The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission is investigating security at Three Mile Island after the head of security wrote in a memo last October that veteran guards were training the new guards on the

best places to take a nap. Pennsylvania's inspections were made, the governor's office said, "to ensure control room, security and other vital personnel are alert and performing their duties in a manner to keep the facilities operating safely."

Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20060301/us_nm/utilities_nuclear_pennsylvania_dc_1

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Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector

5. *March 01, NBC San Diego (CA)* — **Fuel spill when gas tanker crashes.** A tanker truck lost control while speeding in the rain on Interstate-8 East, Tuesday, February 28, according to the California Highway Patrol, spilling 4,000 gallons of fuel in Boulevard, CA. Environmental officials are concerned about the spill leaking down to groundwater.
Source: <http://www.nbcsandiego.com/news/7553643/detail.html>
6. *March 01, WLNS (MI)* — **Residents evacuated after gas line break.** A gas line break at a mobile home park caused evacuations of 12 mobile homes Tuesday morning, February 28, in Eaton County, MI. Consumers Energy crews had to shut off the gas, because firefighters say the pipe broke below the shut off valve.
Source: <http://www.wlns.com/global/story.asp?s=4566916>
7. *February 28, CBS 2 Chicago (IL)* — **Carbon monoxide leak strikes auto parts warehouse in Illinois.** A total of 27 people required medical attention Tuesday, February 28, after a carbon monoxide leak struck FIC America Corp. Plant, an auto parts warehouse in Carol Stream, IL. The carbon monoxide originated with a malfunctioning forklift, the fire department said.
Source: http://cbs2chicago.com/topstories/local_story_059170001.html

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

8. *February 28, Air Force Link* — **Air Force Vision document released.** Heritage, future innovations and focus on the joint warfighter are three key points in the newly released Air Force Vision document, "Lasting Heritage...Limitless Horizons: A Warfighter's Vision." This vision document, released to Airmen worldwide Tuesday, February 28, replaces the older "Vision 2020" version, which was released in 1997, and focused on preparation for the then-upcoming turn of the century. While the document is heavy in Air Force history, its outline for the Air Force's future is made clear with references to new technology, total force concepts, and fighting the global war on terrorism.
Air Force Vision document: <http://www.af.mil/shared/media/document/AFD-060228-054.pdf>
Source: <http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?storyID=123016530>

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Banking and Finance Sector

9. *February 28, Asia Pulse* — **South Korea boosts efforts to prevent online identity theft.**

South Korea's Information Ministry unveiled a set of measures Tuesday, February 28 to thwart online identity theft. The ministry will strengthen its monitoring of Internet Protocol (IP) addresses suspected of being used in the theft of private information from online portals and game sites. The ministry also said it will develop and distribute security patches to portal and game sites to minimize exposure to hacking. Those measures were announced in response to the recent theft of personal information that was used illicitly to establish login identities for "Lineage," one of the nation's most popular online games. The personal information of more than 230,000 South Korean nationals has been stolen and used to create bogus IDs at the game site.

Source: <http://asia.news.yahoo.com/060228/4/2gkn2.html>

10. *February 28, Business Journal of Phoenix (AZ)* — **Arizona Attorney General aims to deter identity theft with new banking options.**

Arizona Attorney General Terry Goddard has launched a new program called Fraud Fighter Accounts, designed for those people most vulnerable to identity theft or fraud because of disabilities, health issues, or because their financial security was already compromised. The Fraud Fighter Account, to be offered by participating banks and credit unions, allows consumers to choose among several options to protect their accounts. The options include: limiting daily and monthly withdrawals; notifying a trusted third party if suspicious transactions are attempted; delaying suspicious transactions; and limiting electronic access to accounts. The Attorney General's Office is working with banks and credit unions to incorporate these accounts into the products offered to their customers.

Source: http://www.bizjournals.com/phoenix/stories/2006/02/27/daily13.html?from_rss=1

11. *February 28, Associated Press* — **America Online sues groups under anti-phishing law.**

America Online (AOL) is taking advantage of a first-of-its-kind anti-"phishing" law in Virginia to sue three international groups that allegedly stole information from AOL users by sending e-mail that appeared to be legitimate messages from the company. AOL's three lawsuits, filed Monday, February 27, in Virginia's federal court, seek \$18 million. The suits allege that the 30 phishers, who have not yet been identified by name, violated the 2005 Virginia anti-phishing act, which covers AOL because it is based in Virginia. The phishers cited in the suits are accused of sending tens of thousands of e-mails and setting up Websites that purportedly were from AOL customer service. AOL spokesperson Nicholas Graham said the victims gave up screen names, passwords, and financial information. The phishers are believed to be part of a multinational network spanning the United States, Germany, and Romania. These lawsuits follow similar efforts by AOL and other Internet service providers to go after e-mail spam artists and online scammers.

Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20060228/ap_on_hi_te/aol_phishing_lawsuits_3

12. *February 28, Xinhua (China)* — **World's largest personal credit information databank operational in China.**

The world's largest personal credit information databank has been put into operation in China, with the number of persons covered reaching 486 million by late January, the People's Bank of China has said. Su Ning, vice-governor of the central bank, said that almost every Chinese citizen who is economically active is now covered by the databank. The databank provides information concerning one's basic facts, bank accounts, borrowing records and his/her accounts at the national housing saving pool. The vice-governor said

another credit information databank targeting enterprises has also launched operation on a trial basis and would start full operation at the middle of the year. He called for the better utilization of the databanks by enterprises and personal credit information for safeguarding financial security and providing a benchmark for monetary and macroeconomic policy makers.

Source: http://english.people.com.cn/200602/28/eng20060228_246538.ht ml

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Transportation and Border Security Sector

13. *March 01, Associated Press* — **Study: Cell phones can impact cockpit devices.** Talking on cell phones or using laptops on an airplane could disrupt cockpit operations, especially global positioning devices that are increasingly being used to help land planes safely, according to a new study. Researchers monitoring flights in the Northeast found that several cell phone calls are typically made on commercial flights during takeoff or final approach, two critical flight stages when accidents could occur. The research at Carnegie Mellon University was led by Bill Strauss, an expert in aircraft electromagnetic compatibility at the Naval Air Warfare Center in Patuxent River, MD. Researchers monitored radio emissions from passengers on three airlines with the support of the Transportation Security Agency. The emissions were tracked using a broadband antenna that was attached to a portable spectrum analyzer in a piece of carryon luggage. Granger Morgan, head of Carnegie Mellon's Department of Engineering and Public Policy Department, said the activity recorded shows that the use of electronic devices should be limited on airplanes. Morgan said the disruptions are enough to impact a plane's navigation or other systems. The study, which received support from the Federal Aviation Administration, is being published in the March issue of the technology journal IEEE Spectrum.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/flights/2006-02-28-cellphones -planes_x.htm

14. *March 01, New York Times* — **In search of profits, JetBlue increases prices.** JetBlue Airways is trying mightily to raise fares in a bid to restore profits after surging fuel prices caused it to lose \$42.4 million during the fourth quarter. Along the East Coast, JetBlue, which is based in New York, competes head to head against traditional carriers like Delta Air Lines and Continental Airlines. JetBlue says it needs a \$10 increase on one-way tickets, which averaged \$110 last year. If the carriers can pull off a major price increase without scaring off a lot of those price-sensitive passengers, it would be an encouraging sign for the health of the industry. During the last six years, when traditional airlines were piling up more than \$40 billion in losses, JetBlue grew to \$1.7 billion in annual revenue and became increasingly popular with travelers. But now that fuel prices have pushed up expenses for all airlines, and older carriers have sharply cut their own labor costs, the advantage JetBlue enjoyed as a start-up is greatly reduced.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2006/03/01/business/01jetblue.html?hp&ex=1141275600&en=8160518d97948575&ei=5094&partner=homepage>

15. *March 01, Associated Press* — **Northwest Airlines flight attendants reach pay-cut deal.** Negotiators for flight attendants reached a pay-cut deal with Northwest Airlines Corp. on Wednesday, March 1, as the carrier continued talks with the pilots' union. All the details were not immediately released, but the airline said it got the \$195 million in annual savings it had been seeking. The union said Northwest dropped its demand to use more non-U.S. flight

attendants on overseas flights, which had been at the core of its strike threat. Pilots have also threatened to strike over Northwest's demands for pay cuts and more flexibility in how it staffs its flights. Pilots on Tuesday overwhelmingly authorized a strike if Northwest imposes its terms on them. Northwest is operating under protection of federal bankruptcy laws. The flight attendant deal still must be accepted by union leaders and approved by a vote of the 9,700 members of the Professional Flight Attendants Association. A New York bankruptcy judge had told the parties to make a deal by Wednesday. After that, he could rule on whether Northwest can reject its contracts with the two unions. Similar deadlines have prompted wage-cut deals in other airline bankruptcies.

Source: http://biz.yahoo.com/ap/060301/northwest_labor.html?.v=9

16. *March 01, Associated Press* — Atlanta airport looking to expand wireless role.

Hartsfield–Jackson Atlanta International Airport is looking to expand the role of its wireless Internet service. The service, unveiled in October 2005, covers every inch of the world's busiest air hub. Now, airport officials are looking to use the wireless service for other functions, such as allowing police and fire crews to access airport security cameras during emergencies, airport spokesperson Lance Lyttle said Wednesday, March 1. More than 20,000 people a month use the service.

Source: <http://www.ledger-enquirer.com/mld/ledgerenquirer/news/local/13991337.htm>

17. *March 01, Associated Press* — Continued squeeze for airlines, passengers, FAA predicts.

Airline passengers can look forward to a gradual increase in bargain fares, but airplanes will grow more cramped and the skies more congested, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) predicted Tuesday, March 28. Driven in part by lower fares, the number of airline passengers will rise 45 percent from 738.6 million in 2005 to 1.07 billion in 2017, the FAA said in its annual forecast. Many passengers will fly on smaller planes as airlines replace jumbo jets with smaller aircraft, such as regional jets, the FAA said. "Fares will be down, crowds will be up, delays will be longer," said David Stempler, president of the Air Travelers Association. "You're more likely to be in the middle seat, or next to someone in the middle seat, or sitting at the gate because you got bumped off the airplane." Also, the skies will also be filled with more cargo airplanes and more small planes, such as air taxis and corporate jets, the FAA said as part of its forecast, which typically covers slightly more than a decade. Whether there will be enough money to pay for the dramatic growth in air traffic remains to be seen.

FAA annual forecast: <http://www.faa.gov/>

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2006/TRAVEL/03/01/crowded.skies.ap/index.html>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report.

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Agriculture Sector

18.

March 01, Cattle Network — **New kind of cattle branding, an identification number.** U.S. livestock may now get individual identification numbers. Wednesday, March 1, in Washington, DC, a nonprofit industry group plans to launch a program that aims to assign each cow, bison, and other livestock its own 15-digit number and track their movements in a national database. Animals would be tagged, perhaps in the ear with a bar code or a radio-frequency chip. Another alternative: a chip could be implanted beneath the animal's skin. The goal is to make it easier for animal health officials to track the source of any outbreak of disease — and limit its scope. Under the plan, which is voluntary, every time an animal is sold, its number and buyer is registered in the database to help pinpoint its movements. In the event of a disease outbreak, this information could help locate previous owners of the infected animal and other animals it possibly had contact with. Officials could then impose quarantines or other restrictions. The new system is part of a pilot effort that has been tracking about 300,000 animals in the Southeast and Northwest. The U.S. Department of Agriculture will issue the codes and the U.S. Animal Identification Organization, a nonprofit industry group, will administer the database. Source: <http://www.cattlenetwork.com/content.asp?contentid=20168>

19. *February 28, Food Business Review* — **Escalating bird flu crisis threatens global poultry trade.** Recent avian influenza outbreaks in Europe, the Middle East, and Africa have caused dramatic swings in poultry consumption, more trade bans and sharp price declines, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). The FAO expects poultry consumption shocks this year in many countries in Europe, the Middle East, and Africa that have been hit by the H5N1 strain of the virus. As fears of disease transmission reduce consumption and imports, lower domestic prices are forecast to limit production growth. At the onset of avian influenza outbreaks in early 2004, lagging consumption in Asia and the loss of export markets for regional supplies led to an eight percent decline in international trade. Up until recently, international poultry prices had been driven up by over 30 percent because of declining exportable supplies. Developments in 2006 indicate a very different market environment. The FAO said consumption shocks are progressively lowering global import demand for broiler parts. Poultry prices are expected to continue declining, threatening industry profitability around the world. In Europe, consumption shocks are ranging from a 70 percent decline in Italy in mid-February to 20 percent in France and 10 percent in northern Europe. Source: http://www.food-business-review.com/article_news.asp?guid=3948E444-E676-4DDE-9DF9-A88CF9BA6AD6

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Food Sector

20. *March 01, U.S. Food and Drug Administration* — **Draft guidance issued for the safe production of fresh-cut fruits and vegetables.** To minimize microbial food safety hazards common to the processing of most fresh-cut fruits and vegetables sold to consumers in a ready-to-eat form, The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Wednesday, March 1, published a draft guidance document for producers of fresh-cut produce entitled "Guide to Minimize Microbial Food Safety Hazards of Fresh-cut Fruits and Vegetables." Processing produce into fresh-cut produce increases the risk of bacterial contamination and growth by breaking the natural exterior barrier of the produce by peeling, slicing, coring, trimming, or mashing with or without washing or other treatment before being packaged for consumption.

Examples of fresh-cut products are shredded lettuce, sliced tomatoes, salad mixes, peeled baby carrots, broccoli florets, cauliflower florets, cut celery stalks, shredded cabbage, cut melons, sliced pineapple, and sectioned grapefruit. The draft guidance discusses the production and harvesting of fresh produce and provides recommendations for fresh-cut processing in several areas: personnel health and hygiene, training, building and equipment, sanitation operations, and fresh-cut produce production and processing controls from product specification to packaging, storage, and transport. The final chapters provide recommendations on recordkeeping and on recalls and tracebacks.

Draft guidance: <http://www.cfsan.fda.gov/guidance.html>.

Source: <http://www.fda.gov/bbs/topics/NEWS/2006/NEW01328.html>

- 21. *March 01, Agricultural Research Service* — **Pest-removing treatments examined for cherry packing operations.**** Using food-grade surfactants, Agricultural Research Service (ARS) scientists in Wapato, WA, are testing a new method of ridding packed sweet cherries of mites, thrips, and other surface-feeding pests. According to ARS entomologist Jim Hansen, such pests pose more of a consumer-marketing problem than a field-production one, since they can occur on sweet cherries that have been packed for domestic sale or export. In addition to culling and sorting measures, Hansen is experimenting with dips, baths and sprays containing polydimethyl silicone emulsions and other food-grade surfactants, which, in effect, wash the pests off the cherries' surface. Surfactants are typically used as wetting or dispersing agents in products ranging from soaps and shampoos to paints and insecticides. But recent studies have shown that some silicone-based surfactants will remove spider mites, thrips, and mealy bugs from apples and pears. Besides fruit quality, the success of international sales hinges on U.S. cherry exporters' ensuring pest- and disease-free shipments to avoid rejection or delay of the shipments at the trader's port. Hansen is conducting research to identify emulsifiers and other surfactants that will remove a variety of pests. He's also looking for ways to identify exposure times that won't delay online packing operations.

Source: <http://www.ars.usda.gov/News/docs.htm?docid=1261>

- 22. *February 28, U.S. Food and Drug Administration* — **Response plan developed for food-related emergencies.**** The U.S. Food and Drug Administration in cooperation with the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture, the Food Safety and Inspection Service, and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has announced the availability of a model Food Emergency Response Plan Template. The goal of the response plan is to enhance the protection of the nation's agricultural industry and food security through prevention, detection, response, and recovery. The template provides states with a guide to develop either a stand-alone emergency response plan for responding to a food-related emergency or an addendum to an existing all-hazard state emergency response plan. Useful planning tools include documents previously developed in cooperation with the DHS – national planning scenarios, target capabilities, and uniform task lists. A food-related emergency involves the unintentional or deliberate contamination, threatened or actual, of food that impacts or may impact human health.

Template: <http://www2.nasda.org/NR/rdonlyres/2EC4F1B6-9732-4187-8A1D-7024C6818CBE/858/NASDAFoodPlanTemplate020906.pdf>

Source: <http://www.fda.gov/bbs/topics/NEWS/2006/NEW01327.html>

Water Sector

23. *March 01, Buffalo News (NY)* — **City losing 41 percent of its water to leaks.** Buffalo, NY, pumps 29.6 billion gallons of water each year. But nearly 12 billion gallons is lost. Most of the water is lost through leaks and bursts in the city's 900-mile maze of pipes. Another five billion gallons is lost through leaks in pipes that are the responsibility of private property owners — service lines that connect the main system to homes and businesses. Another jolting discovery is that Buffalo only collects revenue for 46 percent of the water it pumps. The Water Board receives no revenue for about four billion gallons of water used in city buildings, recreational facilities, fire hydrants, and even by some cultural and community groups. Another 600 million gallons is stolen by water pirates who tamper with meters and take extreme measures to restore service after water has been turned off for nonpayment.

Source: <http://www.buffalonews.com/editorial/20060301/1050787.asp>

24. *March 01, Harwich Oracle (MA)* — **Town embraces water technology.** Harwich, MA's Water Superintendent Craig Wiegand sits at his desk and punches up a color map of a local neighborhood on his computer. The map is part of a global information system (GIS) that's being installed at the water department. It charts the town's complex water infrastructure. For example, when Wiegand clicks on a fire hydrant, a box of text instantly tells him the size and type of hydrant, and when it was installed. In the event of a water main break, the department can immediately learn which valves must be closed, and the emergency phone number of affected homeowners. Nearly two years in the making, a prototype of the system should be ready next month, said Wiegand. The new capability, expected to increase efficiency, reduce costs, and improve customer service, will become almost fully operational later this year. Rather than return to the office and search for files, he explained, with laptop computers installed in all their trucks, water employees will be able to quickly access maps showing the location of water mains, valves, septic tanks, fire hydrants, and meters.

Source: <http://www2.townonline.com/harwich/localRegional/view.bg?articleid=438728>

25. *March 01, Nepal News* — **Rebels disrupt Nepal drinking water and irrigation project.** Maoists have disrupted the drinking water and irrigation project in Chaurjhari in Rukum for the last month after the villagers disobeyed the rebels order. More than 20 thousand farmers have been directly affected by the rebels' act. The rebels blocked the drinking and irrigation water supply project after the villagers refused to participate in the construction of a so called "martyr's road," being constructed by the rebels, in Rolpa. A drinking water supply project at Amala Takuri and an irrigation channel at Kotjahari remain completely blocked. Eighty-seven water taps in the town have gone dry. Residents have been forced to walk an hour's distance to fetch drinking water.

Source: <http://www.nepalnews.com/archive/2006/mar/mar01/news13.php>

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Public Health Sector

26.

March 01, Agence France–Presse — **Germany orders cats to be kept indoors.** Germany has ordered that cats be kept indoors and dogs on leashes in bird flu hit areas in five states, after a dead cat was found to have the H5N1 strain of the virus. The government said the order would immediately take effect in a 1.8 mile radius of all areas where wild birds infected with the virus have been found. The H5N1 virus was first detected in Germany in mid–February among wild swans on the Baltic Sea island of Ruegen, in the state of Mecklenburg–Western Pomerania. Since then it has spread to two other states in the north, as well as the country's two southernmost provinces, Bavaria and Baden–Wuerttemberg. Bird flu has also been found around Berlin.

Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20060301/hl_afp/healthflugermanycatpets_060301133919;_ylt=Ai4EoKK_hNAEHS2AIDANxaJOrgF:_ylu=X3oDMTA5aHJvMDdwBHNIYwN5bmNhdA--

27. *March 01, Reuters* — **Scientists launch study into tackling pandemic flu.** British scientists launched a study on Wednesday, March 1, to deepen understanding of bird flu and prepare for the threat of an influenza pandemic. The Royal Society, the country's national academy of science, and the Academy of Medical Sciences have joined forces in the study which will report its findings in the summer to global health officials and policy makers. The study will examine how scientific evidence can help policy makers and health officials to formulate strategies involving modeling and surveillance to prepare for a potential pandemic. It will also look into diagnosis, infection control, and transmission and the use of existing treatments such as antiviral drugs, as well as the development of new treatments and vaccines against influenza. Scientists also hope to identify the sort of changes that will be needed for the virus to move easily from person to person.

Source: http://today.reuters.com/news/newsArticle.aspx?type=scienceNews&storyID=2006-03-01T133752Z_01_L01112585_RTRUKOC_0_US-BIRDFLU-STUDY.xml

28. *March 01, Dallas Morning News* — **Antibiotic work afflicted by the bottom line blues.** In the modern antibiotic era, the old drugs are often the only drugs. Many of the world's pharmaceutical giants are losing interest in the pursuit of new antibiotics and slashing their antimicrobial research divisions. At the same time, the germs continue to strengthen their ability to defy the drugs already on the market. Already, some patients are left with only one or two useful medications. As resistance climbs and research interest falls, infectious disease experts worry about a day when some infections may reach the point of being virtually unstoppable. Experts are most concerned about the microbes that breed in hospitals, such as Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA), pseudomonas, and vancomycin-resistant enterococci (VRE). About two million people each year will contract an infection they didn't have upon admission. Once, new antibiotics flowed readily. Between 1935 and 1968, 11 new classes of antibiotics — a "class" targets bacteria in a unique way — came on the market. After that, none appeared for more than 30 years. One was approved in 2000, with two more in 2003 and 2005. But those newest antibiotic classes were the outcome of research that began more than a decade ago.

MRSA information: http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/submenus/sub_mrsa.htm

Pseudomonas information: <http://www.cdc.gov/healthyswimming/derm.htm>

VRE information: http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dhqp/ar_vre.html

Source: <http://www.ledger-enquirer.com/mld/ledgerenquirer/news/natio n/13989256.htm>

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Government Sector

Nothing to report.

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Emergency Services Sector

29. *March 01, Seattle Post-Intelligencer (WA)* — **Simulated earthquake disaster underway in Pacific Northwest.** About 300 government, industry and emergency management personnel from four Pacific Northwest states, Alaska and British Columbia will gather behind closed doors in Bellevue Wednesday, March 1, and Thursday, March 2, to participate in a simulated mega-quake disaster scenario. The scenario: a massive earthquake that will kill thousands, destroy buildings, knock out power and water, set fires and leave the region devastated for years. The goal of the exercise at the Bellevue Hyatt Regency, known as "Blue Cascades III" and redesigned to take into account some of the lessons learned from Katrina, is to improve communication and coordination among the public and private players in the "critical infrastructure" needed to mount the most effective response to a catastrophe.

Source: http://seattlepi.nwsource.com/local/261219_quake01.html

30. *February 28, Federal Computer Week* — **Red Cross develops playbook for future disasters.** The American Red Cross is developing a playbook to help the organization better use information technology assets and improve coordination and assistance with government and industry during natural and manmade disasters. Ron McKenzie, the organization's senior director for IT services, said the playbook, which he hopes will be ready by July, could help the organization mobilize faster during events without being reactive. Another part of the strategy will be to include technology applications that helped families find loved ones, get financial assistance and find shelters.

Source: <http://www.fcw.com/article92453-02-28-06-Web>

31. *February 28, U.S. Army* — **Corps conducts Alaska earthquake exercise.** Last week a catastrophic 7.5-magnitude earthquake shook Alaska as part of an Army Corps of Engineers cold-weather response exercise. The exercise objectives were to prepare the Corps to respond to a no-notice cold-weather event and to capture lessons learned to improve future responses. Throughout the two-day exercise, senior leaders assessed damage to the district and its capabilities and district managers tried to locate their "missing" people. Ken Suiso, Pacific Ocean Division's civil emergency planner, said that the exercise concept focused on deployment procedures as well as on infrastructure response activities and the interface with the military. The exercise also tested the team's ability to use their satellite capable, TeleEngineering Communications Equipment-Deployable by sending the data to the Engineer Reach-Back Center for detailed analysis. The regional exercise involved many Corps of Engineers components, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Departments of Transportation, Energy, Interior and Defense, Red Cross and local and state governments were just some of the agencies that participated.

Source: http://www4.army.mil/ocpa/read.php?story_id_key=8637

32. *February 28, Tri-Valley Herald (CA)* — **California cities prepare for earthquake.** Cities in the San Ramon Valley, CA, continued an all-out effort to be prepared in the event of a disaster Monday, February 27, as city staff members attended an earthquake preparedness workshop. More than 65 staff members from the town of Danville and city of San Ramon, along with law enforcement and first responders, attended the Dougherty Station Community Center on Monday. Through a series of presentations in the mornings and interactive workshop in the afternoon, city officials are hopeful to be prepared and to solidify relationships between their staffs.

Source: http://www.insidebayarea.com/trivalleyherald/localnews/ci_3554585

33. *February 28, Georgia Tech* — **Georgia Tech helps implement new statewide interoperable public safety system.** In Georgia, law enforcement agencies and first responders use radio systems that operate on different frequencies and technologies, making it difficult for various agencies to communicate quickly and effectively. In response, the Georgia Office of Homeland Security/Georgia Emergency Management Agency asked the Georgia Tech Research Institute (GTRI) to help implement a statewide communications system that enables interoperability among public-safety agencies. “One of the advantages of this system is that it allows agencies to use their existing equipment,” explained Douglas Cobb, a principal research engineer at GTRI’s Information Technology and Telecommunications Lab and the project’s technical lead. Instead of replacing legacy radio equipment — which would carry a stiffer price tag of \$200–300 million — interoperability will be achieved through a “gateway approach.” How it works: Internet networking components and a type of voice over Internet protocol software will be installed in selected 911 dispatch centers throughout the state. This will allow radio calls from law officials and first responders to be routed over the state’s private Internet Protocol network, which uses multi-protocol label switching technology designed to carry voice, data and video traffic.

Source: <http://www.gatech.edu/news-room/release.php?id=878>

34. *February 28, Detroit Free Press (MI)* — **Pagers could improve disaster response.** Departments throughout Oakland County, MI, are hoping to use grants to purchase a paging system that would more effectively get word to fire crews during emergencies, Independence Township, MI, Fire Chief Steve Ronk said last week. The system is necessary, he said, because when several departments are deployed to an emergency now, many rely on a system of having one fire official call another. This can create confusion, and sometimes misinformation is relayed, Ronk said. With a paging system, he said, one message could be typed in and sent to every department being called on to respond to a scene.

Source: <http://www.freep.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20060228/NEWS03/602280362/1005/NEWS>

35. *February 28, Network World* — **FEMA updates IT systems to better respond to disasters.** The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is undergoing much change in an effort to better address natural and manmade disasters, says Barry West, the CIO at FEMA who spoke Tuesday, February 28, at a breakfast hosted by ExecutiveBiz, a group that promotes networking among business executives in the Washington, DC area. West says Department of Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff calls this the “retooling” of FEMA. The changes include

updating FEMA's claim-processing procedures from call center support to migrating to a Web services platform. FEMA is beefing up its claim processing systems that was severely taxed during and after Hurricane Katrina. This has prompted the agency to update the system to using Web services and Linux servers. FEMA is also looking at how it can actively contract out call center support to large insurance companies or to large financial institutions such as the Bank of America. In addition, FEMA is looking at implementing a system that would allow real-time tracking of assets, West says.

Source: <http://www.networkworld.com/news/2006/022806-fema-cio.html?page=1>

- 36. February 27, IST Results — European project: Widening the scope of emergency communications.** Fresh from a recent successful test-run of its system, the Information Society Technologies (IST)-funded project WIDENS has succeeded in developing a prototype network that could be quickly deployed in areas where there is no available communication infrastructure to support emergency or peacekeeping operations. The trial successfully demonstrated the viability of the system for multi-hop relaying for voice communication, as well as high throughput for live video surveillance, interconnection with the Internet, and fleet monitoring control room application and authentication of nodes to prevent IP spoofing. WIDENS is a co-operative project involving European industries and universities. The project is supported by the European Commission under the IST Framework Program 6. The overall objective of the WIDENS project is to design, prototype and validate a high data-rate, rapidly deployable and scalable wireless ad-hoc communication system for future public safety, emergency and disaster applications.

WIDENS Website: <http://www.comlab.hut.fi/projects/WIDENS/>

Source: <http://istresults.cordis.lu/index.cfm/section/news/tpl/article/BrowsingType/Features/ID/80738>

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Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector

- 37. February 28, Hackers Center — Internet Explorer iframe folder deletion weakness.** Cyber flash has discovered a weakness in Internet Explorer, which can be exploited by malicious people to trick users into deleting local folders. Affected software: Microsoft Internet Explorer 6.x. Analysis: The problem is that network shares can be included in an iframe where only certain parts of the content is visible to the user. This can be exploited to trick users into deleting local folders via an iframe referencing "\127.0.0.1c\$." Successful exploitation requires that the user selects a folder icon, presses the delete key, and accepts a "Folder Delete" dialog. Solution: Do not accept suspicious "Folder Delete" dialogs when visiting untrusted Websites. Source: <http://www.hackerscenter.com/archive/view.asp?id=23176>

- 38. February 28, CNET News — Russian phone Trojan tries to ring up charges.** Antivirus companies are warning of new malicious software that can infect any cell phone capable of running Java applications, not just feature-rich smart phones. The Trojan horse was first spotted by Moscow-based Kaspersky Lab, which calls it RedBrowser. The malicious code poses as an application that promises people the ability to visit mobile Internet sites using text messages instead of an actual Internet connection, Kaspersky said in a statement Tuesday, February 28. Instead, the Trojan sends messages to certain premium rate numbers that charge

between \$5 and \$6 per message, Kaspersky said.

Source: http://news.com.com/Russian+phone+Trojan+tries+to+ring+up+charges/2100-7349_3-6044266.html

39. *February 28, CNET News* — **Symantec launches free threat meter.** Symantec on Tuesday, February 28, launched the Symantec Internet Threat Meter, a free service meant to inform consumers about the state of Internet security. "There are other threat indicators on the Web," Dave Cole, a director at Symantec Security Response, said. "But what was missing was a place for consumers that breaks it down in plain English and gives actionable advice." Available on the Symantec Website, the new threat meter will provide information on the current risk level associated with specific online activities: e-mail, Web surfing, instant messaging and file-sharing.

Symantec Internet Threat Meter:

http://www.symantec.com/avcenter/home_homeoffice/index.html

Source: http://news.com.com/Symantec+keeps+weather+eye+out+for+Net+threats/2100-7349_3-6043873.html?tag=cd.top

40. *February 28, Federal Computer Weekly* — **DoD to update Wi-Fi policy.** The Department of Defense is working on a new policy for the use and protection of wireless devices. The policy aims to improve interoperability and strengthen security for wireless systems. The new policy, 8100.3, updates DoD Directive 8100.2, issued in 2004.

Source: <http://www.fcw.com/article92452-02-28-06-Web>

Internet Alert Dashboard

DHS/US-CERT Watch Synopsis

Over the preceding 24 hours, there has been no cyber activity which constitutes an unusual and significant threat to Homeland Security, National Security, the Internet, or the Nation's critical infrastructures.

US-CERT Operations Center Synopsis: US-CERT is aware of publicly available exploit code for a vulnerability in Apple Safari Browser. The Apple Safari browser will automatically open "safe" file types, such as pictures, movies, and archive files. A system may be compromised if a user accesses an HTML document that references a specially crafted archive file. Successful exploitation may allow a remote, unauthenticated attacker to execute arbitrary commands with the privileges of the user.

More information can be found in the following US-CERT Vulnerability Note:

VU#999708 – Apple Safari may automatically execute arbitrary shell commands
<http://www.kb.cert.org/vuls/id/999708>

Although there is limited information on how to fully defend against this exploit, US-CERT recommends the following mitigation:

Disable the option "Open 'safe' files after downloading," as specified in the Securing Your Web Browser document.

Current Port Attacks

Top 10 Target Ports	1026 (win-rpc), 6881 (bittorrent), 6348 (----), 55620 (----), 25 (smtp), 445 (microsoft-ds), 139 (netbios-ssn), 41170 (----), 32459 (----), 12431 (----) Source: http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html ; Internet Storm Center
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To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: www.us-cert.gov.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

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Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument & Icons Sector

41. *March 01, Argus Courier (CA)* — **High schools consider surveillance cameras.** Video surveillance cameras, which have helped to reduce vandalism and other misbehavior at schools throughout the country may soon be watching over Casa Grande and Petaluma high schools. "We are looking into installing them because of a rise in vandalism and graffiti at the schools during off hours," said Dave Rose, coordinator of student services for Petaluma City Schools in Petaluma, CA. The district is targeting the high schools because they are larger, and therefore more susceptible to vandalism, Rose said. He added that the school district's interest in installing the cameras at the schools has nothing to do with the increase in assaults from 17 in 2004 to 31 in 2005, and a rise in assaults with a deadly weapon or the use of an explosive device from zero to four. The cameras would be installed in areas such as corridors, parking lots, quads and sports fields, Rose said.
Source: <http://www.arguscourier.com/news/news/camerasinhighschools060301.html>

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General Sector

Nothing to report.

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Contact DHS

To report physical infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact the National Infrastructure Coordinating Center at nicc@dhs.gov or (202) 282–9201.

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US–CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Web page at www.us-cert.gov.

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